

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 01879 151114 Z

15

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CU-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 NIC-01

RSR-01 SY-10 OPR-02 M-03 A-01 /106 W
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P R 140900 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3306

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1879

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, SG

SUBJ: STUDENT PROTESTS AND VIOLENCE RESUMES

USIA FOR IAA

BEGIN SUMMARY. MOUNTING STUDENT TENSION OVER PAST FEW WEEKS ONCE AGAIN ERUPTED INTO VIOLENCE MAY 14 WHEN POLICE, USING TEAR GAS GREN-

ADES, DISBURSED CROWD OF 50-70 STUDENTS WHO HAD ASSEMBLED AT PLACE DE L' INDEPENDANCE FOR ANTI- SENGHOR DEMONSTRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND TO LATEST EXAMPLE OF TENSION AND VIOLENCE (IN ADDITION TO FACTORS DISCUSSED DAKAR A-23, PAGE 5) IS CONTINUED COMPLETE LACK OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN STUDENTS AND GOVERNMENT. DESPITE APPOINTMENT APRIL 5 OF OUSMANE CAMARA AS MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, PRESUMABLY WITH MANDATE TO DEAL WITH STUDENT PROBLEM, CAMARA HAS NOT YET FOUND SUITABLE OCCASION TO VISIT UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, ALTHOUGH SUCH VISIT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION. STUDENT DORMITORIES REMAIN COVERED WITH SLOGANS SUCH AS " A BAS LE GOUVERNEMENT FANTOCHE DE SENGHOR" AND " A BAS LE FASCISME". GOS
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 01879 151114 Z

FACT REMAINS UNWILLING TO MAKE ANY CONCESSION TO STUDENTS, AND UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION HAS PLAYED VIRTUALLY NO ROLE IN SEEKING TO EASE TENSION OR FIND ACCEPTABLE MIDDLE GROUND.

2. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, DEATH ON MAY 11 OF IMPRISONED FORMER ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEUR STUDENT OUMAR BLONDIN DIOP PROVIDED SPARK WHICH SET OFF LATEST ROUND OF VIOLENCE. DIOP IS MEMBER OF BLONDIN DIOP FAMILY; DIOP BROTHERS HAVE LONG BEEN INVOLVED IN RADICAL STUDENT POLITICS. OUMAR, WHO WAS SERVING 3 YEAR SENTENCE FOR " ATTEINTE A LA SURETE DE L' ETAT", DIED, ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL ACCOUNT, BY HANGING HIMSELF.

4. FOLLOWING DIOP' S DEATH AND OVER WEEKEND SPECIAL UNITS OF RIOT CONTROL TROOPS IN FULL BATTLE DRESS WERE STATIONED AT KEY POINTS IN VICINITY OF DAKAR MEDINA, NEAR CENTRAL PRISON. AT SAME TIME, TRACTS CIRCULATED THROUGH UNIVERSITY DORMITORIES PROTESTING " LATEST CRIME" OF SENGHOR REGIME AND CALLING FOR RALLY AT 11:00 AM MONDAY, MAY 14, AT PLACE DE L' INDEPENDANCE. JUST BEFORE NOON ON MONDAY, GROUP OF 50-70 STUDENTS, AFTER MARCHING ON SIDE STREET SHOUTING " SENGHOR ASSASSIN", ASSEMBLED AT PLACE DE L' INDEPENDANCE FOR LARGER DEMONSTRATION. AT THIS POINT POLICE INTERVENED, THROWING TEAR GAS GRENADES. STUDENTS SCATTERED IN ALL DIRECTIONS. ONE WOMAN STUDENT WAS ARRESTED; ANOTHER INSISTED ON ACCOMPANYING HER. NO OTHER ARRESTS WERE OBSERVED. MANY SHOP WINDOWS ON SIDE STREET (WILLIAM PONTY) HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN BROKEN BY DEMONSTRATORS. SCATTERED ACTS OF STUDENT VIOLENCE ALSO OBSERVED ELSEWHERE IN CITY, PARTICULARLY IN POINT E SECTOR.

5. GOS IS OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT LATEST ROUND OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE AND IS TAKING MAXIMUM PRECAUTIONS. AS OF AFTERNOON MAY 14 IT NOT CLEAR VIOLENCE YET OVER.
CLARK

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